

## Soldiers honored during homecoming

By Sgt. Rosalyn Peterkin  
30th Medical Brigade Public Affairs Office

"This day has been hoped for, planned for, and prayed for — ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to report that 100 percent of the 557th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) Soldiers who deployed are home," said Lt. Col. Kyle Campbell, commander of the 557th's parent unit, V Corps' 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion.

Campbell was speaking during a ceremony in Hangar 1064 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Feb. 11 that signified the unit's official return from the second iteration of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers of the 557th said the ceremony marked the end of a year-long deployment during which they provided support to ground forces during and after major combat operations and established the unit as the preeminent ground ambulance company in the U.S. Army.

More than 100 Soldiers from the 557th arrived in Kuwait in January 2004 and immediately began preparations for their movement into Iraq. In less than a month the unit split up to provide medical support in various locations, including the cities of Al Asad, Balad and Tikrit. Throughout the deployment the 557th supported missions for the U.S. combat support hospitals, fire stations, U.S. Marine expeditionary forces, naval medical units and infantry divisions.

A portion of the unit was tasked with providing medical support to all outlying forward operating bases in their area for Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, the 67th Combat Support Hospital and the 167th Area Support Group, while others joined forces with the Marines. Soldiers of the 557th located at LSA Anaconda in Balad, had a mission that encompassed all ground evacuation in and out of the 31st Combat Support Hospital, including helipad operations and



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Lt. Col. Kyle Campbell, 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion commander, pins awards on Soldiers of the 557th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) during a welcome home ceremony Feb. 11 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Dozens of the unit's Soldiers received recognition ranging from certificates of achievement to bronze stars for their actions and services during a year long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

patient evacuations.

Capt. Matthew Curlee, 557th commander, said the medical and tactical skills of the Soldiers were put to the test on a daily basis during their deployment and that "they definitely proved themselves to be among the finest Soldiers in the Army."

"There is not a word adequate enough to express the amount of pride that I have for the men and women standing before you today," Curlee said during the ceremony. "Every one of these Soldiers is a hero — it is their efforts, and the efforts of those who came before them, that has allowed our nation to become the leader of the free world."

Unit officials say the 557th was the largest ground ambulance company to deploy in support of OIF II.

While conducting split-base operations, the unit's Soldiers also performed support missions such as command post duties, gun support, driving company convoys, food service duties and vehicle maintenance support for the company and the 429th Medical Battalion. On several of their missions Soldiers from the 557th were attacked during convoys, had vehicles that encountered improvised explosive devices and came under small arms fire. Curlee said the performance of the unit's Soldiers said a lot about their

dedication.

"No one who has not lived [through the dangers in Iraq] can ever fully comprehend the courage it takes to continue to execute [your mission] while in mortal danger. Yet these outstanding Americans were always there for each other, never hesitated and never faltered," he said. "They executed every mission and task above and beyond all expectations."

During their tour in Iraq the 557th's Soldiers completed 3,127 missions, drove 184,209 miles and transported more than 5,258 patients.

"The performance of the 557th was absolutely phenomenal," said Campbell. "They drove over 184,000 miles over the most hazardous road and combat conditions found in the entire theater and executed thousands of missions all without accident or incident. Their accomplishments are beyond amazing."

"They have touched thousands of lives on and off the battlefield, and history will never forget their efforts," said Curlee. "I am grateful that I was allowed to serve with them."

Entering Iraq with a large number of Soldiers under his command who had come directly from Advanced Individual Training, Curlee credits the unit's success to "the deployment preparations, the leadership skills of outstanding NCOs and the Soldiers' dedication to saving lives."

With everyone back safe and sound, Curlee said that now his main focus for the 557th is reintegration.

"A lot has changed while we were gone. My main goal now is to get Soldiers back with their families and back to training in a garrison environment."

The unit's welcome-home ceremony concluded with Curlee thanking the Soldiers, family members and friends of the 557th for their sacrifices during the unit's deployment.

## Community happenings

### Youth art classes

Römer Arts Center offers a variety of children's programs for youths age 9-13. Enjoy clay time from 3:30-5:30 p.m. or art from 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays; crafts from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays; and sewing from 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Youths can also join the musical performance "Songs of Broadway." Rehearsals are held from 4-5:30 p.m. through March 16. For more information call mil 337-5722 or civ (0611) 705-5722.

### Story time at library

The Wiesbaden community library holds Story Time every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. Targeted for pre-school aged children, the

program includes listening to a story and a craft time.

### English classes set

Army Community Service offers free English as a second language classes every Thursday from 5-7 p.m. March 17 to May 5. To sign up call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

### Father-daughter dance April 23

Girls and dads — get ready for a special date night. The 221st Base Support Battalion Chapels sponsor a father-daughter dance April 23 at the Wiesbaden Middle School gym from 7-9:30 p.m. Invitations are

available at the Hainerberg Chapel. For reservations and more information call civ (06127) 99 2140 or send email to [sexton@t-online.de](mailto:sexton@t-online.de).

### Tax assistance

Free tax preparation is available at the Wiesbaden Tax Assistance Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The TAC is located above the Wiesbaden Shoppette, down the hall from the Barber Shop. Walk-ins are accepted; however those with more complicated tax returns should call ahead to make an appointment. All U.S. identification card holders are eligible for this free assistance. For more information or to make an appointment call mil 337-4755 or civ (0611) 705-4755.

### Playgroup at chapel

Little Lambs prayer and playgroup is held from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays at the Hainerberg Chapel. Parents must remain with

the child during the playtime and bring a snack or drink for their toddler. For more information call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

### Family inprocessing

Spouse and family member inprocessing training is conducted by the 221st Base Support Battalion. Learn about services and activities available in the community and life in Germany. Sessions are held every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754 to sign up.

### BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets every Thursday at 2 p.m. at the BOSS Center, Building 1052 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

### Dexheim classes

Army Community Service in Dexheim sponsors employment readiness workshops, newcomer's

coffees, resume writing, newcomer's bus tours and sponsorship training throughout the month of March. For more information call mil 334-5716.

### Indoor flea market

The Community Activity Center hosts monthly indoor flea markets. Sellers can rent tables for \$10 on a first-come, first-served basis. Flea markets will be held March 19. Doors open at 8 a.m. For more information call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

### Breastfeeding support

La Leche League is an international organization dedicated to helping mothers breastfeed through mother-to-mother support and information and meets the fourth Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (06134) 188 825.



# 221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Photo by Pvt. Jennifer McFadden  
Sgt. Manuel Fandino assists Sgt. Jason Williams, both from Company A, 123rd Main Support Battalion, in guiding an AH-64 Blackhawk to the right spot in a sling load training exercise outside Anderson Barracks in Dexheim Feb. 17. Photo right: Iron Soldiers of Company A, 123rd Main Support Battalion, race from a HMMWV after hooking it to a Blackhawk helicopter as part of the company's sling load training.



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

## Units team up for sling load training

By Pvt. Jennifer McFadden  
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Spinning rotors materialized over the tree tops.

Through the cloud of dust and debris each blade sliced the cold winter air like a warm knife through butter. Whipping winds flattened the grass as the AH-64 Blackhawk helicopter maneuvered over the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle like a bird stalking its prey.

Locking suspension wires from the HMMWV to the Blackhawk, Iron Soldiers from Company A, 123rd Main Support Battalion, teamed up with 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, outside Anderson Barracks Feb. 17, in an exercise to train for real world aerial transport missions.

"We are certifying our personnel to ensure that they know the proper procedures and are capable of performing all required tasks for sling load operations," said Capt. Anthony Wagner, 123rd MSB's Company A commander.

Breaking down into teams of three, 25 Soldiers and the company commander performed tasks of rigging a HMMWV and a net of cargo.

"The requirements for certifying

a load is that it has to be rigged according to the proper regulation and inspected by someone who is either Pathfinder, Air Assault or Sling Load Inspector Certified," explained Wagner.

Although this was only a one-day event, training for the operation started in the classroom. Soldiers spent the week before the hands-on exercise reviewing every detail of the upcoming mission's requirements.

"We are implementing crawl, walk, run training by starting in the classroom and ending up out here with the live sling load," said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Rollins, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the sling load exercise.

"This was my first experience with a Blackhawk and I was excited to get out into the field and show what we have learned in training," said Spc. Lakeya Smith, a Company A Soldier.

The sling load exercise was more than a training event. It also served as a bridge between the unit and the local German community. German community officials were enthusiastic to witness firsthand the skills of their military neighbors.

"Although I have a busy schedule, I was excited to come out and see this type of training exercise,"

said Dexheim Mayor Klaus Penzer. "Usually the events that I am able to attend are in an official capacity."

"It was a great opportunity because I have never seen a live training event such as this. Now I can convey to other German officials what the military does here, which increases understanding and strengthens the partnership between the German and military communities," Penzer said.

The training and practical experience to which these Soldiers were exposed will help prepare them to react when they are called on by the 1st Armored Division.

"Having the bird come and participate gives each of these Soldiers a chance to experience what a sling load mission would be like downrange and is a great training tool," said Rollins referring to the Blackhawk support from the Iron Knights.

Flight crews from the 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, team up with the 123rd Main Support Battalion in a live sling load exercise outside Dexheim's Anderson Barracks. The Iron Knights assisted the Apache Soldiers in aerial transport training Feb. 17.



Photo by Pvt. Jennifer McFadden



## Bargains abound for potential vacationers

**USO, Outdoor Rec and other outfits feature wide variety of travel opportunities**

**By Cassandra Kardeke**  
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The biting chill of winter may still be in the air.

To help whisk away those winter blues start planning now for spring and summer travel.

Americans stationed in Europe have a wealth of travel destinations and unique opportunities to see the world, some of which can be found locally.

"We offer day trips to amusement parks, shopping trips to Poland, skiing, scuba diving, camping, fishing. You name it, Outdoor Recreation has it," said Joseph Harris III, director of Wiesbaden and Dexheim Outdoor Recreation centers.

Even better, are the prices of those excursions which generally include round-trip transportation and tour guides. Not only does Outdoor Rec offer guided trips and excursions, equipment and gear can be rented for those adventurers who choose to head out on their own.

The United Services Organization also offers various tours from day trips to over-nighters for those looking to just get away for



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

**Children enjoy amusements at a recreation community in the Netherlands operated by Centerparcs. Various opportunities await travelers in Europe.**

a little while. Many USO trips are close to home; however, trips to Spain and Ireland can also be found.

Vacationing doesn't have to max out credit cards or burn a hole in one's pockets, especially if the dates and locations are flexible.

There are several local tourist agencies which offer last-minute getaways. The second floor of the Frankfurt Airport is filled with agencies offering unique vacationing experiences at discounted rates everyday. Flyers and banners abound with packaged deals offering up

to a week stay at exotic locations. Discounted flights to several countries throughout Europe can also be found through Ryan Air at [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com).

Families on a budget who wish to get away but not deal with arduous travel arrangements can still have quite an adventure of their own for a very low cost through Centerparcs. With 19 parks throughout Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and Great Britain, Centerparcs offers a complete vacation package for the entire family at extremely good rates. Even more bargains can be found with their last-minute discounts or having a vacation package catered to your desires at [www.centerparcs.com](http://www.centerparcs.com). Vacation packages can be reserved for as little as two days up to a month, for small and large groups.

If planning an extended vacation in one place, check out the MWR Travel Club where one can stay in a condominium with plenty of room for four to six people and only pay \$264 for a week. Again, dates may need to be flexible, however, vacationers can enter the dates of their planned holiday to find out what packages are available and where. The MWR Travel Club offers this deal all over the world for all military, state and federal employees. Go to [www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/patronlinks/sav.asp](http://www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/patronlinks/sav.asp) to find out more.

Now that warmer months are right around the corner, start planning your next vacation and chase those winter blues away.

### Open Saturdays in March

## Indoor paintball in Wackernheim

**By Kelly Deichert**  
Special to the Herald Union

Outdoor Recreation in the 221st Base Support Battalion now features indoor paintball.

"Since it rains an average of 120 days a year in Germany, an indoor paintball field seemed like the right thing to do, especially during the fall and winter months," said Joseph Harris III, 221st BSB Outdoor Recreation and Education Program director.

The Avenger Field facility is located in Building 6217 on McCully Barracks in Wackernheim.

ID card holders and their guests can play from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays through March. The cost starts at \$10 per person. Group rates are also available.

"The field is ideal for all levels of players, to include teams," Harris said. Up to seven people can play on a team at a time.

The facility is also available for

events such as training and private parties.

Participants can bring their own gear or sign up for equipment on site. No outside paint is allowed at Avenger Field.

Harris recommended that players wear full-length clothing and that camouflage clothing of any color is not permitted. Players, spectators and referees must wear a face mask.

Call mil 334-5818 for details.



A player takes aim during a paintball session.

# 221st BSB — Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

## Community news notes

### Youth sports registration

Youth interested in playing softball or baseball in the upcoming season must be registered with Child and Youth Services by March 4. The fee is \$30 for the first child, \$28 for the each additional child in the same family. Volunteer coaches are needed. For more information call mil 337-5383 or civ (0611) 705-5383.

### Open forum March 9

There will be a community Town Hall for all Wiesbaden residents at General H.H. Arnold High School March 9 at 5:30 p.m. Community leaders will be on hand for residents and employees who have concerns or issues.

### Studio closed

The Official Photo office at the Training Support Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield will be closed March 28 through April 5. People needing photo support must make arrangements before the closing dates.

### Parenting help for newbies

The New Parent Education and Support Program offer a three-part series of workshops for new or soon-to-be parents. The series topics include: Childbirth experience — dealing with discomfort in labor, Breastfeeding — getting started and being successful and Postpar-

tum/Newborn care and safety. Registration is required for these workshops. Call mil 338-7835 or civ (0611) 532 9842 for more information.

### VFW meeting

Wiesbaden's Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 27, holds its annual meeting March 10 at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activity Center at 7 p.m. All members and potential members are invited. For more information call civ (0611) 306 123.

### Drivers needed

Outdoor Recreation needs volunteer bus drivers with a Class 2 U.S. Army Europe driver's license, B35 or higher. Drivers must also have a valid U.S. tourist passport and be willing to travel to other countries. Call mil 337-5760 or civ (0611) 705-5760 for more information.

### Special performance

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents Giessen's Keller Theater production of "The Belle of Amherst" at 7:30 p.m. March 4-5. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and can be purchased at any Wiesbaden area USO office.

### Sponsorship training

Join the welcome wagon and help greet newcomers to the 221st Base Support Battalion community. Army Community Service teaches

skills and resources during monthly workshops at Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. Unit sponsorship training is held at 1:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month and civilian sponsorship the second Tuesday of the month. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

### Breakfast at McCully Club

The McCully Club now offers breakfast Monday through Friday from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Enjoy all your breakfast favourites — pancakes, eggs, bacon, omelettes and hash browns.

### Luncheon at Rheinlander

The Rheinlander Club at Anderson Barracks hosts a Women's History Month luncheon March 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No reservations are needed unless you have a large group.

### Instructors needed

Child and Youth Services is looking for instructors to teach martial arts, dance, music and drama as a part of the new Schools of Knowledge Inspiration Exploration and Skill program. For more information call mil 338-7592 or civ (0611) 380-7592.

### Iron Soldier Half Marathon March 19

Runners of all ages are invited to participate in the MWR Iron Soldier Half Marathon March 19 at 10 a.m. The race will begin and end at the



Photo by Karen Edge

### Love is in the air

Al Garcia, a motor pool employee, volunteers his services Valentine's Day at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activity Center delivering balloon and flower bouquets for the 221st Base Support Battalion All Occasion Ballon Center. The center had more than 100 orders for balloons.

1st Armored Division Headquarters at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Register no later than March 4 at the

Tony Bass Fitness Center. For more information call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.

### Parent support

The New Parent Education and Support Program offers classes and assistance to parents in the Wiesbaden and Dexheim communities. Playgroups are available in Building 7005 in Crestview Housing Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and at the Army Community Service building in Dexheim, Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. Birth, Breastfeeding and Beyond classes are offered from 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays from March 15-29 in Crestview. The New Parent Support Program provides home visits for new and expectant mothers of children up to age 4. Call mil 338-7835 or civ (0611) 380-7835 for information.

### Job fair March 18 in Hainerberg

Army Community Service hosts a Job Fair March 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the ACS Cafeteria in Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. For more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.



# 222nd BSB — Baumholder, Neubrück, Strassburg

## ACS

mil 485-8188

### New hours

Army Community Service has new hours on Thursdays. They are now open from 1-5 p.m.

### Army Family Team Building

The following Army Family Team Building sessions are scheduled for March:

- March 10, 24, Level I, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- March 21-23, Level II, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Parenting

The Parents and Tots Playgroup (birth to preschool), meets 10-11:30 a.m. Mondays at the Iron Kids Play Room, Building 8222.

Nurturing program sessions for parents and their infants, toddlers and preschoolers meets from 10 a.m. to noon. Mondays at the Iron Kids indoor play ground, Building 8222.

A coffee break support group for military spouses and couples meets 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

### Relationships

The following classes are offered for couples by ACS:

- Thursdays, Maintaining Love in a Healthy Relationship, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays, Happily Ever After-Adjusting to New Marriage, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Fridays, Anger Free Living, 9-11 a.m.

### Employment

Get assistance in joining the work force with the following classes offered by ACS:

- March 1, 8, 22, 29, 10 Steps to a Federal Job, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn to navigate through the federal job system.
- March 15, PCS Pre-Employment Class, 10 a.m. to noon. This class will teach you how to start seeking employment before you PCS to your next duty station.
- March 25, Interviewing Skills and Dressing for Success, 10 a.m.-noon.

### Financial sound

Get a grip on your finances with the following classes:

- March 1, 15, Successful Money Management, 2-4 p.m.
- March 2, Checkbook Management, 9-11 a.m.
- March 9, How to Get Out and Stay Out of Debt, 9-11 a.m.
- March 30, Basics of Investing, 9-11 a.m.

### Newcomers

Families Learning About Germany, or FLAG, offers its next orientation from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21-23. This is an opportu-

## Happenings



Photo by Dr. Peggy Hoffman-Schmidt

### Spell weaver

How do you spell "piecemeal"? That was the winning word for Neubrück Elementary School's spelling bee champion Paul Trendel. Student spellers grades three through six vied for the chance to represent the school at the district spelling bee. Third-grader Devondre Daniels placed second in the school event. Each participant received a \$10 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificate, and the winner also received an engraved trophy. Daniels will represent Neubrück at the district competition since Trendel will be leaving Baumholder.

nity to become acquainted with your new host nation. Get practical experience in using the German train and bus systems. Limited free child care is available with reservations.

### Life coaches

Visiting professional counselors are available to provide support and guidance if you are dealing with conflict, worry or difficulty in or outside of your home. Counselors are available to meet with you when and where you are most comfortable. Contact ACS to schedule a meeting at mil 485-6604/8188.

### Email news

If you have been looking for the latest information impacting your community, sign up for the ACS email distribution list.

### Child and Youth Services

mil 485-7003, civ (06783) 6-7003

### Event child care

Child care for special events is available at \$2.50 an hour per child; \$2.75 an hour per child after 5 p.m. and on weekends. This service is subject to the availability of staff. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Call mil 485-7393 for more information.

### Youth sports

mil 485-7003, civ (06783)-6-7003

### Baseball, softball

Baseball and softball registration is ongoing through March 18. Current health assessments are required and volunteer coaches are needed. Girls softball is available for ages 11-18 and boys and girls baseball is offered for ages 5-18. Registration is \$30 for the first child and \$27 for each additional child. One head coach and one assistant coach per team get first child for free and the second child for half price.

### Swimming

Call central registration at mil 485-7003 for a complete schedule.

### Youth Services

mil 485-7276, civ (06783) 6-7276

### Hours, events

Youth Services is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The following events are offered in March:

- March, 5, a free eight-ball billiard tournament, at the Teen Cafe for ninth- to 12th-grade students from 6-9 p.m.
- March 18, free midnight sports at the Mountaineer Fitness Center from 8 p.m. to midnight. March 18,

middle school dance at the Underground for sixth- through eighth-students, 8-11 p.m., \$5, finger foods and drinks provided.

- March 1-15, Women's History Month poster contest for sixth-through eighth-grade students, 4-8 p.m.

All participants must be registered with CYS.

### Outdoor Recreation

mil 485-7182, civ (06783) 6-7182

Outdoor Recreation is open Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and noon to 5 p.m. on holidays. The following activities are offered in March:

- March 4-6, Garmisch ski weekend, \$195 per seat
- March 11-13, Switzerland ski weekend to Interlaken, \$125 per seat. Cost includes transportation and ski or snowboard rental. A two-day lift pass costs €72 and lodging at a hotel is \$25 per night
- March 17-20, Austria ski weekend to Gastein, \$315 per seat. Two-day overnight includes breakfast and dinner and a two-day ski pass
- March 26, Black Forest ski trip to Feldberg, \$65 per seat. Includes ski or snowboard rental and transportation. Child rates are available.

### Paintball

Paintball is offered at the Rolling

Hills Campgrounds on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rental is \$12. Field fee is \$9 when using own gear.

### Athletic club

mil 485-6156, civ (06783) 6-6156

### Aerobics schedule

- Tuesdays, Thursdays, toning, 7 p.m.
- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, step aerobics, 7 p.m.
- Tuesdays, Thursdays, step/toning aerobics, 9:15 a.m.
- Tuesdays, Thursdays, water aerobics, 9:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Fridays, \$1 family swimming, 5-8 p.m.

Wear green on March 17 and work out for half price.

### Golf course

mil 485-6156, civ (06783) 6-6156

A "Luck-O-Irish" sale is offered March 17. Purchase any product and pull out a secret ballot for additional savings. The 10-25 percent sale is for retail merchandise only. Other prizes include individual golf passes and more.

### Library

mil 485-1740, civ (06783)-6-1740

### Story hour

A preschool story hour is offered from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

### Library collection

Baumholder's library collection includes 26,000 books, audio/video products, CD ROM reference and online services, 155 magazines and newspapers. Special services include reference section, children's section, automated U.S. Army Europe library system, CD-ROM computers, Internet, word processing services, printers, online catalog computers, coin-operated copiers and typewriters. Over 75 new DVD titles were recently added to the library's collection and there's more to come.

### Keepsake Framing and Photo Shop

mil 485-8793, civ (06783) 6-8793

### New hours

The new hours for the Keepsake Framing and Photo Shop are Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 1-6 p.m.

### Framing class

Framing classes are offered March 12, 26. The cost is \$25

### Photo studio open

Reserve a photo studio appointment on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 2-8 p.m., or the last weekend of each month from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## AFAP Conference focuses on community issues

**By LeAnne MacAllister**  
222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Baumholder's annual Army Family Action Plan Conference, hosted by Army Community Service, was held Feb. 14 and 15 at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Over 50 delegates brought issues of the community forward for discussion and produced recommendations that will be carried to the 104th Area Support Group conference March 17.

AFAP is an Army-wide conference organized to identify issues that directly affect the quality of life standard for the community and ultimately identify solutions that encourage self-reliance. "It's the voice of the community. From the lowest level it's their chance to be

heard and send it up to Washington," said Ginalyn Cowles, AFAP coordinator.

Conference delegates are separated into four work groups representative of America's Army — community and customer services and support, family and force support, single Soldier and youth issues.

Issues varied from mental health challenges to early return of dependents, unaccompanied travel and obtaining a U.S. Army Europe license without a stateside license. The groups also examined new ways of bringing tour opportunities to post, such as having a USO representative cover Baumholder. Army and Air Force Exchange Service hours, fitness center options and child care were also discussed.

The youth issues group covered a range of topics as well. "We need more and different activities for kids to stay out of trouble," said Baumholder American High School 12th-grader Ashley Karayannis. Derrick Mundth, a 10th-grader, echoed her comments, adding that middle school age youths had little or no after school activities.

The youth issue of lowering the age to use the gyms on post continued along the line of activities. During deployment the age dropped to 12 as long as children had parental permission and training on the equipment. Now it is back up to 16, though it is dropping to 15 in October.

"I don't see why they can't leave it at the deployment standard. They didn't have a single problem from teens during the deployment," said Karayannis.

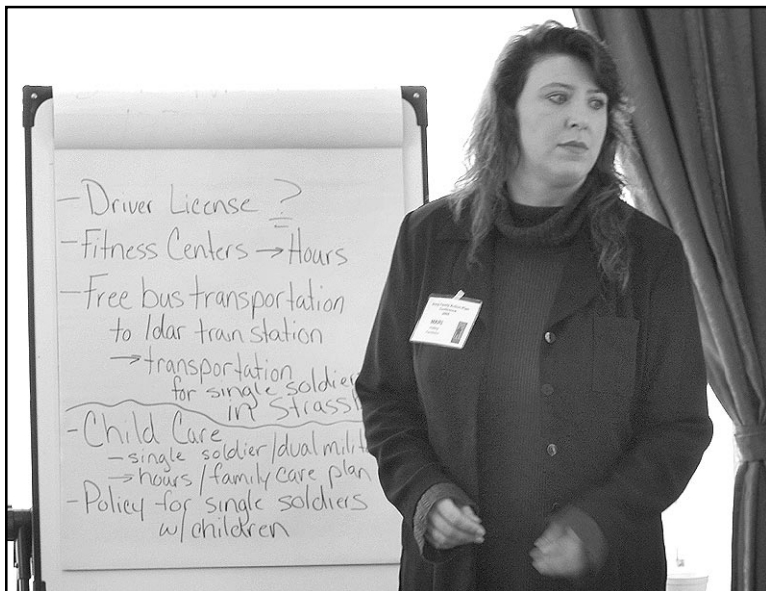
Christopher Bray, a ninth-grader and the football team's quarterback, brought up the issue that scouts are unable to get to most games in Europe and there's a lack of publicity.

The group believes Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe should do more. "I think they should have an all-conference exhibition where players from across Europe can meet, maybe for one week during the summer. That

way the scouts can come out to watch for a shorter amount of time and see more," said Bray. The issue is personal to Bray as he is looking for an athletic scholarship to college.

"I've worked with the AFAP group for six years and this is the best youth group I've ever seen," said Gene Winfree, 222nd Base Support Battalion schools officer. Across the board, it seemed all groups received flying colors.

"It went very well, especially with the weather. We had a tremendous turnout for delegates and issues. The community really turned out," said Cowles.



Photos by LeAnne MacAllister

Mari Haley, an Army Community Service volunteer at this year's Army Family Action Plan Conference, keeps a record of issues raised by the single Soldiers focus group.



Delegates brainstorm possible solutions to issues facing Baumholder Soldiers. The two-day conference featured representation from throughout the 222nd Base Support Battalion.



Single Soldiers take a break from the work group, but the brainstorming (conversation) continues at the Army Family Action Plan Conference.



# 222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg



Members of the Baumholder Fire Department respond to a fire after a car bomb was detonated during a Weapons of Mass Destruction Exercise Feb. 12.

## Exercise tests garrison preparedness

Story and photos by LeAnne MacAllister  
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Like the Boy Scout motto, “be prepared” was the theme for the 222nd Base Support Battalion’s mass casualty training exercise Feb 12. The simulation was held at the Training



First responders and medics from various regional medical centers treat a victim in the exit phase of the decontamination process during the exercise.

Support Division classroom on the northern edge of post, where, according to the scenario script, a mixture of 16 Soldiers and civilians were attending a seminar when a chemical bomb exploded.

“The purpose of the exercise is to ensure that we have the necessary systems, equipment and support in place to ensure that we are able to respond to a mass casualty event and handle this type of crisis,” said Laney Rich, 222nd Base Support Battalion anti-terrorism officer.

Boy Scouts from Troop 96 as well as a few Soldiers volunteered to serve as victims. The group’s injuries were applied at the Mountaineer Fitness Center earlier that day. Costume blood, gashes and even blown off arms were simulated. A few casualties were assigned so that emergency responders would also practice the response process for deaths in a mass casualty exercise.

All volunteers had to be treated by firefighters at the on-slaught. Once wounds were stabilized, victims were carried out on stretchers. Before being taken to hospitals, all victims had to go through a chemical decontamination process. “You’ve got to assume that it’s a dirty bomb and be prepared for this new reality of threats,” said Lt. Col. Howard Malone, 104th Area Support Group director of emergency services.

After going through the chemical decontamination process, victims were transported to the Red Cross and Baumholder Health Clinic station. Ultimately the simulation ended with the preparation of transportation to regional medical centers.

The German Red Cross, various city and volunteer fire departments and multiple medical crews from across Rheinland Pfalz aided the on-post emergency services division in providing care to the victims. “We are at a raised threat level as a nation, and we need to know that we are capable of managing such a crisis as a team in partnership with our host nation support,” said Lt. Col. James Larsen, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander.

The 222nd Base Support Battalion also called the Quick



Firefighters, prepared to work in chemically contaminated areas, carry out a “victim” from a bombed classroom.

Reaction Force into place. The garrison simulated raising the post to force protection level delta and prepared for simulated media needs.

Brig. Gen. Michael Tucker, assistant 1st Armored Division commander for maneuvers, explained the need to prime Baumholder and the larger community for possible emergency situations. “We’re prepared because our presence here makes us a target,” he said. “The German community of Baumholder wouldn’t have to worry about this threat if we weren’t their neighbors. We need the host nation assistance; we are grateful for their willingness to help, and we appreciate the support they provide.”



## 7th ATC brings DISE training to Soldiers



Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, conduct a search during the training exercise.

Story and photos by  
**LeAnne MacAllister**  
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Soldiers of Baumholder's two infantry battalions recently had Grafenwöhr's training brought to them. The Deployable Instrumentation Systems Europe — equipment in which Soldiers wear smart vests and helmets with GPS tracking systems and then review their practice raids and other operations digitally — provided platoons and companies a new alternative in realistic training at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site.

Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Williams of the 7th Army Training Command travels with the equipment and provides DISE training to units across Europe.

"The DISE system is good for command and control. It allows commanders, through after action playback, to see the schemes and maneuvers in response to fire or contact drills and cordon searches. Basically it shows commanders what actually happened instead of assessing what units think happened thanks to the playback ability. You now know exactly who shot who," said Williams.

On a recent visit Williams operated the equipment for Company A, 2nd Infantry, 6th Battalion. In coordination with their training, Dale Franz, Local Training Area supervisor, updated the MOUT site to more accurately depict an Iraqi town. Abandoned cars were parked in roads and buildings were designated with Arabic signs to create a realistic situation.

Platoons carried out day and night missions with the equipment. With the command able to trace



Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Williams tracks Soldiers through satellite images during the DISE training in Baumholder.

their every move through satellite imaging, platoons had to enter the MOUT site, seal off the area and hunt down insurgents.

If a Soldier was shot in the training process, the smart vest would be able to assess the severity of the wound. If injuries were life threatening, the vest would send a signal to the Soldier's weapon and he would no longer be able to fire. "This makes for more realistic training," said Williams. "If a Soldier really goes down, he can't continue to chase after the enemy and fight at full ability." DISE is a smart system — if another Soldier picks up the weapon of a fallen comrade, the signal will be able to transmit the change and the weapon will be able to fire again.

Many of the 1st Armored Division Soldiers who are participating in the training were deployed to Iraq last year.

The benefit of including realistic training with their current platoons and companies is extremely valuable to many of the Soldiers who participated.

"This system will show a unit that it's either effective or lagging in any basic maneuver drill," said Randy Blackwell, training aids and devices officer. "Units can go back after the training and see what they need to fix for next time, be it another training exercise or the real thing."

Williams and Blackwell believe that this training is a valuable tool for any type of unit. The Army is backing up their belief. "In June we will be getting an instrumentation kit to include artillery in the training simulation," said Williams.

With systems such as DISE brought to their doorstep, small units can experience training similar to large scale operations held at the Combat Maneuver Training Center.

"We (7th ATC) weren't designed to be something better than CMT. We're designed to bring a similar sort of training to the more specific, company sized unit, no matter what branch of the Army, and better prepare them for missions ahead," Williams said.



Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, raid an insurgent's hideout at the MOUT site.